

Serial No. : 0/762,606

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original). A hull for a high speed boat having generally a V-shape, comprising at least one pair of strakes longitudinally running along the entire length of said hull from a common point at the aft end of said hull and said strakes of each pair separating from each other as they extend towards the fore portion of the hull, said strakes having a cross-section that includes a fin member with a distal end that extends downwardly from said hull, said fin member having a substantially triangular shape with an outer side that is longer than an inner side to permit said distal end to extend substantially vertically inside a body of water and said cross-section further includes a flat horizontal section adjacent to said inner side so that running and idle stability can be achieved.

2. (Currently amended). The hull set forth in claim 1 wherein said hull includes at least one step with a drop off wall and having a projected V-shape pointing to the ~~front~~ back of said boat and having two distal ends that allow air in as the boat moves thereby forming an air cushion tending to lift said hull.

3. (Original). The hull set forth in claim 2 wherein said at least one step includes a longitudinal channel running adjacent to said drop off wall and having a predetermined width so that a portion of the air through said distal ends is trapped therein.

Serial No. : 0/762,606

1 4. (Original). The hull set forth in claim 3 further including a
2 peripheral chine having a substantially triangular cross-section that
3 extends vertically and downwardly inside a body of water over which said
4 boat floats.

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6 5. (Currently amended). A hull for a high speed boat having at
7 least one step with a drop off wall and having a projected V-shape pointing
8 to the ~~front~~ back of said boat and having two forward extending distal ends
9 that allow air in as the boat moves thereby forming an air cushion tending
10 to lift said hull. said at least one step includes a longitudinal channel
11 running adjacent to said drop off wall and having a predetermined width
12 so that a portion of the air through said distal ends is trapped therein.

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15 6. (Cancelled).

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17 7. (Original). The hull set forth in claim 6 further including a
18 peripheral chin having a cross-section with a substantially triangular shape
19 that extends vertically and downwardly inside a body of water over which
20 said boat floats.